



April 26, 2019

Chairman Jeffrey P. Ackermann
Commissioner Frances A. Koncilja
Commissioner John C. Gavan
Colorado Public Utilities Commission
1560 Broadway, Suite 250
Denver, CO 80202

Re: Review of the Public Utilities Rule

Dear Chairman Ackermann and Commissioners Koncilja and Gavan:

We are submitting these comments on behalf of Colorado Communities for Climate Action, a coalition of 25 local governments across the state advocating for effective state climate policy. More than half of our members are rural Colorado communities, and collectively our members represent more than one-eighth of the state's population.

The Public Utilities Commission's jurisdiction over investor-owned utilities in Colorado has continued to serve a critical role in ensuring transparency for utility customers and protection from excessive utility rates. That regulatory oversight has propelled our state to quickly becoming a clean energy leader while maintaining key protections for customers.

We applaud the PUC's recent ruling to exercise its authority over rural electric cooperatives seeking to leave Tri-State. The ruling is vital in establishing a fair and equitable approach for co-ops looking to exercise their right to more local power at reduced costs.

It is our hope that the PUC expand its oversight authority to oversee Tri-State's future resource planning and rate-making efforts. Doing so would protect Tri-State's affiliated rural electric cooperatives and their electric customers who are exposed to higher electric rates for more carbon-intensive resources than other Colorado customers, all of which is obscured by less transparent decision-making. Moreover, those electric cooperatives and their electric customers simultaneously face restricted opportunities for local economic development and resilience opportunities tied to local clean energy.

We support expanding these critical protections to a wider universe of electricity customers across Colorado and helping move Tri-State toward a less expensive and less carbon-intensive generation portfolio. Colorado's many rural communities that are part of

Aspen • Avon • Basalt • Breckenridge • Boulder • Boulder County • Carbondale • Clear Creek County • Crested Butte
Eagle County • Fort Collins • Frisco • Golden • Lafayette • Longmont • Louisville • Mountain Village • Nederland
Northglenn • Pitkin County • San Miguel County • Summit County • Telluride • Vail • Westminster

the Tri-State system deserve the same basic protections that the customers of Colorado's investor-owned utilities receive.

Thank you for taking the comments of the 25 member governments of Colorado Communities for Climate Action into account.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anita Seitz', written in a cursive style.

Anita Seitz, CC4CA President
City of Westminster Mayor Pro Tem

on behalf of: City of Aspen
Town of Avon
Town of Basalt
City of Boulder
Boulder County
Town of Breckenridge
Town of Carbondale
Clear Creek County
Town of Crested Butte
Eagle County
City of Fort Collins
Town of Frisco
City of Golden
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Town of Telluride
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